

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: UN, TSPA, USUN

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE STSC: FEBRUARY 23 MEETING.

1. SUMMARY: AT FEBRUARY 23RD MEETING STSC DECIDED TO INCLUDE IN ITS FINAL REPORT: (A) REQUEST FOR UN SECRETARIAT TO CONTINUE ITS STUDY ON UN COORDINATING ROLE IN REMOTE SENSING FOR PRESENTATION TO 1978 SESSION: AND (B) REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE FROM THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC) RE THE DESIRABILITY OF INITIATING A STUDY ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH MULTI-DISCIPLINARY COORDINATION COULD BE ACHIEVED ON A MULTI-ORGANIZATIONAL BASIS (BOTH UN- AND NON-UN) IN THE FIELD OF SPACE APPLICATIONS. SUBCOMMITTEE COMPLETED ITS DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM 7, ENTITLED "OTHER MATTERS." END SUMMARY.

2. FEB.23RD SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS 7 (A-D). THE MAJOR POINTS WHICH WERE RAISED ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

3. REVIEW OF THE FUTURE ROLE AND WORK OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE. CZECHOSLOVAKIA SAID THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO EXPANDING STSC AGENDA BEYOND ISSUE OF REMOTE SENSING TO INCLUDE MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENTAL
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POLLUTION, SOLAR/TERRESTRIAL RELATIONS, FUTURE POSSIBLE USE OF LUNAR MATERIALS, COMMUNICATIONS WITH EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL AGENTS, AND ANALYSIS OF DATA FROM SATELLITES IN GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT. POLAND MENTIONED INFLUENCE ON THE CLIMATE OF THE UPPER IONOSPHERE AS WELL AS EXPANDED PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION-TRAINING IN SPACE APPLICATIONS. INDIA HIGHLIGHTED TWO ISSUES: (A) IMPLICATIONS OF FUTURE

SPACE MANUFACTURING FOR LDC ECONOMIES, AND (B) IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING MINIMUM NEED/MINIMUM COST SPACE APPLICATION SYSTEMS IN WHICH LDCS COULD REALISTICALLY BE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE AND BENEFIT. IN RESPONSE TO POINTS RAISED BY INDIA, DOYLE OBSERVED THAT OBJECTIVE OF US SPACE PROGRAM EFFORTS IS PRECISELY TO REDUCE THE COST OF SPACE ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO MAKE THEIR BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO MAXIMUM POSSIBLE NUMBER OF USERS. USING THE IAF DOCUMENT, HE ELABORATED ON VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR USE OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE AND THE METEOROLOGICAL APPROACH OF THE APT SYSTEMS, HIGHLIGHTING THAT THRUST OF THESE PROGRAMS WAS TO REDUCE SIGNIFICANTLY COST TO PARTICIPANTS.

4. COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE AND THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE. CANADA NOTED THAT IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF BOTH THE STSC WORKING PAPERS AND INAL REPORT WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT LEGAL IMPLICATIONS REQUIRING CAREFUL STUDY BY LSC. HE MENTIONED CLASSIFICATION OF DATA AND PROPOSALS FOR LIMITATION ON DISSEMINATION. FRANCE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT COORDINATION EFFORTS COULD RAISE SEVERAL DIFFICULTIES, INCLUDING CONFLICTING COMPETENCIES OF SCIENTIFIC AND LEGAL EXPERTS AND THE PROSPECT THAT EXPERTS WOULD BE IMMOBILIZED BY LENGTHY, TIME-CONSUMING EFFORTS TO ATTAIN COORDINATION. HE PROPOSED THAT OSC AGENDA SHOULD BE FORMULATED IN A MORE ANALYTICAL AND DETAILED MANNER, SO THAT MEMBER STATES COULD PREPARE THEMSELVES MORE ADEQUATELY BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES AND THE PARENT COMMITTEE.

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5. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON COORDINATION OF SPACE ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. USSR REQUESTED SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE A STUDY FOR PRESENTATION TO 1978 STSC ON UN COORDINATING ROLE IN REMOTE SENSING. HE NOTED THAT MEMBER STATES AGREED ON NEED FOR DEVELOPING SUCH A COORDINATING ROLE, BUT AT THIS STAGE NO ONE KNEW EXACTLY HOW IT SHOULD BE ORGANIZED. SOVIETS ALSO PROPOSED (AFTER SOME CLARIFICATIONS OF THEIR INTENTION) THAT STSC SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THE OSC RE THE DESIRABILITY OF INITIATING A STUDY ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH MULTI-DISCIPLINARY COORDINATION COULD BE ACHIEVED ON A MULTI-ORGANIZATIONAL BASIS (BOTH UN-AND NON UN-) IN THE FIELD OF SPACE APPLICATION. US SUPPORTED BOTH SOVIET PROPOSALS. ON THE FIRST, WE NOTED THAT SECRETARIAT ALREADY HAS BEGUN ITS STUDY ON UN COORDINATING ROLE AND THAT IT COULD NOW BUILD FURTHER PROPOSALS ON THE BASIS OF VIEWS EXPRESSED BY SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS; ON THE SECOND, WE NOTED THAT ISSUE OF MULTI-DISCIPLINARY COORDINATION WAS VERY IMPORTANT BUT MIGHT BE BEYOND UN CAPABILITIES AND RE-

SOURCES. THEREFORE IT WAS DESIRABLE AT THIS STAGE ONLY TO SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THE FULL COMMITTEE.

6. DISCUSSION OF NEW AND CONTINUING UN SECRETARIAT STUDIES LED TO REQUEST FROM PEREK, CHAIRMAN OF UN OUTER SPACE DIVISION (OSD), THAT STSC ENDORSE RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY UNGA LAST FALL (A/31/8) FOR STRENGTHENING THE OSD. PEREK SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED STSC SUPPORT FOR TWO ADDITIONAL POSITIONS. AUSTRIA, INDIA, AND SWEDEN SUPPORTED PEREK'S REQUEST BUT US AND SOVIETS OBSERVED THAT QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL POSITIONS SHOULD BE DECIDED BY SYG. IT WAS AGREED THAT FINAL REPORT WOULD RECOMMEND THAT SYG SHOULD TRY TO STRENGTHEN THE DIVISION WITHIN AVAILABLE RESOURCES. PEREK THEN ADDED THAT, IN HIS JUDGMENT, THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE.

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7. INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES ON ONGOING AND PLANNED PROGRAMMES IN THE FIELD OF SOLAR ENERGY THROUGH SPACE TECHNOLOGY. US EXPRESSED ITS APPRECIATION TO THE SECRETARIAT FOR ITS SOLAR ENERGY STUDY (A/AC.105-(CIC) CRP.1), AND MADE A NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE TERMINOLOGY, ASSUMPTIONS AND CALCULATIONS OF THE REPORT. THESE REVISIONS WERE DUTIFULLY ACCEPTED BY SECRETARIAT AND NO OTHER COMMENTS ON THE STUDY WERE OFFERED. US ALSO SUBMITTED TWO RECENT NASA STUDIES TO THE SECRETARIAT FOR ITS INFORMATION AND THE INFORMATION OF MEMBER STATES.

8. ONLY OTHER MATTER RAISED AT MORNING SESSION CONCERNED THE DEFINITION OF OUTER SPACE. BELGIUM NOTED THAT

THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE WORKING PAPER (A/AC/105/C2/7/ADD.1)
REVEALED CONTINUING CONFUSION IN THE DEFINITION OF ATMOS-
PHERIC SPACE AND AIR SPACE. NO OTHER DELEGATION COMMENTED
ON THIS SUBJECT. AS OF C.O.B. FEB. 23 THE QUESTION OF THE
GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT HAS NOT BEEN RAISED.

9. WORKING GROUP ON REMOTE SENSING COMPLETED ITS WORK ON
AFTERNOON OF FEB. 23 AND ALL ELEMENTS OF US DEL INSTRUC-
TIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLIED WITH IN WG DRAFT. SUBCOMMITTEE
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BEGINS CONSIDERATION OF FINAL REPORT MORNING OF FEB. 24.
NO MAJOR ISSUES APPEAR TO REMAIN.

10. IN AN EARLIER REPORT DEL NOTED THAT USSR REPEATEDLY
REFERRED TO "LEGITIMATE PEACEFUL USES" OF RS DATA. IN WG
MEETINGS FEB. 22 AND 23 NIGERIAN DELEGATE HAS ASKED SO-
VIETS TO EXPLAIN THE IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR LANGUAGE. NI-
GERIAN SENSES SOME "SINISTER MEANING OR IMPLICATION" AND
HE DEMANDS SOVIETS BRING OUT IN THE OPEN PRECISELY WHAT
IT IS THEY ARE DRIVING AT. SOVIETS HAVE IGNORED REPEATED
PLEA FOR CLARIFICATION FROM NIGERIA IN WG SESSIONS. PAST
EXPERIENCE WITH MACAULEY (NIGERIAN DEL) LEADS TO THE
SUSPICION THAT HE WILL FOLLOW THROUGH ON EXPLICIT PROMISE
NOT TO LET MATTER REST AND WILL PURSUE SOVS ON THE RECORD
IN PLENARY OF STSC. US HAS MADE NO CONTRIBUTION ON EITHER
SIDE OF THIS DISCUSSION AND WE WOULD NOT TOUCH IT WITH A
TEN FOOT POLE.
BENNETT

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Message Attributes

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